



**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021**

The City Council of Austin, Texas, convened in a special called meeting on Thursday, August 5, 2021, City Hall at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas and via Videoconference.

Mayor Adler called the Council Meeting to order at 9:18 a.m. Mayor Pro Tem Harper-Madison and Council Members Ellis, Kitchen, Renteria, and Tovo appeared via videoconference. Council Member Renteria was off the dais.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

1. Discussion about the fiscal year 2021-2022 proposed budget and tax rate. Presentations were made by Eric Nelson, Deputy Budget Officer; Kimberly McNeely, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Diana Grey, Homeless Strategy Officer; Rose Truelove, Director, Housing and Planning Department; Joseph Chacon, Interim Chief, Austin Police Department and Ed Van Eenoo, Chief Financial Officer.

Direction was given to staff to provide a breakdown of tax payer savings and impacts for rates ranging from 3.5% to 8% as well as associated revenue projections. Additional information was requested clarifying why revenue projections show a decrease despite an increase in taxable valuations and new construction values.

Direction was given to staff to provide clarification on where the funds raised by a possible \$0.55 increase in the Clean Community Fee would go.

Direction was given to staff to provide the rationale for six additional Code Compliance Officers as well information on Code Compliance staffing schedules and the potential for schedule adjustments to mitigate the need for additional FTEs.

Direction was given to staff to provide cost estimates for expanding the proposed one-time pandemic stipends to contract first responders.

Direction was given to staff to provide a list of existing projects with significant community impact that could be accelerated in order to free up funding in future years.

Direction was given to staff to provide a list of projects that Council authorized, but that did not end up in the budget.

Direction was given to staff to provide a response to a Council resolution calling for increased investments in the creative sector, including an outline of the various funding pathways available at different levels of government.

Direction was given to staff to provide information on the cost of Code Compliance Officer uniforms.

Direction was given to staff to provide information on resource allocation decisions within the Austin Code Department.

Direction was given to staff to provide specific data on increased demand for summer camp programs and an analysis of the reasons for the increase.

Direction was given to staff to provide more detail on which swimming pools have been outfitted with equipment that allows chlorine levels to be read remotely.

Direction was given to staff to provide information on mechanisms to facilitate private donations to help fund Parks and Recreation Department priorities.

Direction was given to staff to provide a presentation on the new Parks and Recreation Department website that shows how various parkland related investments are being spent.

Direction was given to staff to explore and identify potential improvements to the Parks and Recreation Department's CIP planning process in time for the next budget cycle.

Direction was given to staff to help expedite the reclassification process for the Homeless Strategy Officer position so needed hires can be made.

Mayor Adler recessed the meeting at 11:57 a.m. without objection.

Mayor Adler reconvened the Council Meeting at 1:17 p.m. Council Member Casar was off the dais.

Direction was given to staff to provide an update on the DACC relocation timeline.

Direction was given to staff to provide information on the interplay between ARPA and other funding sources as it relates to staffing positions under the Homeless Strategy Officer.

Direction was given to staff to provide a staffing proposal outlining a viable combination of regular permanent, temporary, and regular grant funded positions for the Homeless Strategy Officer staff.

Direction was given to staff to provide Council with a copy of the draft sanctioned encampment application form.

Direction was given to staff to provide Council with suggested direction that the Council should give to staff for actions the Homeless Strategy Officer deems necessary.

Direction was given to staff to see if the option to create a barracks type shelter in the downtown area is still viable.

Direction was given to staff to track the cost of having APD and the DACC manage the response to scattered homeless encampments as opposed to sanctioned encampments.

Direction was given to staff to provide a briefing on anti-displacement strategy timelines.

Direction was given to staff to help facilitate an executive session discussion regarding legal issues related to funding sources for the 11 requested FTE positions in the Displacement Prevention Division.

Direction was given to staff to provide information on the cost of hiring 11 FTEs in the Displacement Prevention Division as a percentage of the budget.

Direction was given to staff to provide information on funding needs for displacement prevention activity marketing efforts and estimates for a pilot program that could be applied to other affordable housing programs.

Direction was given to staff to provide an analysis of having APD pay other departments for services out of its budget rather than have those services exist as a part of APD.

Mayor Adler recessed the meeting to go into Executive Session at 4:06 p.m. without objection.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council went into Executive Session, pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, to receive advice from Legal Counsel, to discuss matters of land acquisition, litigation, and personnel matters as specifically listed on this agenda and to receive advice from Legal Counsel regarding any other item on this agenda.

2. Discuss the employment, duties, and evaluation of the City Manager (Personnel matters - Section 551.074 of the Government Code).

Withdrawn.

3. Discuss legal issues related to a potential November 2, 2021 election (Private consultation with legal counsel - Section 551.071 of the Government Code).

Discussion occurred.

4. Discuss legal issues related to the City's response to COVID-19. (Private consultation with legal counsel - Section 551.071 of the Government Code).

Discussion occurred.

Executive Session ended and Mayor Adler adjourned the Council Meeting at 6:34 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved on this the 26th day of August 2021 on Council Member Pool's motion, Council Member Tovo's second on a 10-0 vote. Mayor Pro Tem Harper-Madison was off the Dias.